

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 DLOS-07 IO-14 L-03 SCCT-02 CG-00

DOT-00 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

EPA-04 INR-10 NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01

SCI-06 SS-20 SP-03 FEAE-00 DRC-01 AEC-11 AGR-20 FMC-04

INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

ACDA-19 SSO-00 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 /269 W

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R 250223Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4315

INFO USUN NEW YORK 0590

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5731

FROM USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

REF: (A) CARACAS 5714; (B) STATE 134736; (C) TRIPOLI 695

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR ARAB GROUP TO TABLE ISSUE OF PLO OBSERVER STATUS AT LOS CONFERENCE DID NOT ARISE TODAY (JUNE 24) WITH POSTPONEMENT OF SCHEDULED PLENARY SESSION TO ALLOW FURTHER INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON RULES OF PROCEDURE (SEPT-EL).

2. THERE IS GROWING UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER ARAB STATES WILL IN FACT FOLLOW THROUGH ON THEIR EARLIER INTENTION TO RAISE ISSUE. (NEXT SESSION OF PLENARY IS NOW TENTATIVELY SET FOR JUNE 25 PM). ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, SPLIT HAS ARISEN WITHIN ARAB GROUP OVER DESIRABILITY OF RAISING ISSUE AT THIS TIME. A NUMBER OF MEMBERS, INCLUDING GROUP CHAIRMAN (EGYPT) BELIEVE
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THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR PLO TO BE SEATED AS OBSERVER

DURING FIRST STAGES OF CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS OF SUBSTANCE. FOR THESE STATES, PLO ATTENDANCE AT LATER STAGES WHEN FINAL SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS BEING MADE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. THEREFORE, THEIR CURRENT INCLINATION WOULD BE NOT TO RAISE ISSUE AT CARACAS SESSION BUT TO TAKE ACTION AT UNGA IN FALL TO SECURE OBSERVER STATUS FOR PLO AT SECOND SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE, PRESUMABLY IN VIENNA.

3. DEFERRAL OF ISSUE TO UNGA IS REPORTEDLY BEING RESISTED BY LIBYA WHICH WANTS THE GROUP TO RAISE THE ISSUE NOW. WE SUSPECT LIBYA HAS ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE ARAB GROUP AS A WHOLE TO SUPPORT TABLING OF ISSUE BY THREATENING OTHERWISE TO BRING MATTER BEFORE CONFERENCE ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE (REF C). APPARENTLY GROUP HAS NOT RPT NOT MADE FINAL DECISION AND WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE UNIFIED POSITION.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT STRONG EXPRESSION OF VIEWS BY AMERASINGHE AGAINST INTERJECTING POLITICAL ISSUES, INCLUDING PLO, INTO CONFERENCE PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN MOVING EGYPT AND CERTAIN OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP AWAY FROM EARLIER DECISION TO FORMALLY RAISE MATTER.

5. DELEGATION APPRECIATES PROMPT INSTRUCTIONS REF (B) WHICH WE WILL OF COURSE EMPLOY IN EVENT ISSUE DOES INDEED ARISE.
STEVENSON

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